

Message Text

PAGE 01 RIO DE 03296 242000Z
ACTION EB-08

INFO OCT-01 ARA-14 IO-14 ISO-00 EUR-12 CCO-00 CIAE-00
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R 241801Z JUL 78
FM AMCONSUL RIO DE JANEIRO
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6507
INFO AMEMBASSY BRASILIA
AMEMBASSY BOGOTA
AMEMBASSY CARACAS
U.S. MISSION GENEVA 352

UNCLAS SECTION ONE OF TWO RIO DEJANEIRO 3296

WASHDC FOR EB/TD FROM HARRISON

GENEVA FOR TELCOM ATTACHE

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: CITEL, ETEL, NTIA
SUBJECT: CITEL SYMPOSIUM, JULY 17-21, RIO DE JANEIRO

1. SUMMARY: CITEL SYMPOSIUM WELL ATTENDED, ALTHOUGH ONLY A FEW COUNTRIES ACTIVELY PARTICIPATED IN DISCUSSIONS. THE FOLLOWING COUNTRIES AND ORGANIZATIONS FORMALLY PRESENTED TOPICS - U.S., CANADA, NORWAY AND ITU/IFRB. SYMPOSIUM WAS ESPECIALLY NOTEWORTHY FOR ITS AVOIDANCE OF POLITICS, WITH ONLY COLOMBIA MAKING ONE BRIEF REFERENCE TO ITS SOVEREIGNTY CLAIM OVER A PORTION OF THE GEOSTATIONARY ORBIT. U.S. PARTICIPANTS AVAILED THEMSELVES OF THE OPPORTUNITY TO HOLD DISCUSSIONS ON THE SIDE WITH BRAZIL, MEXICO, VENEZUELA, ARGENTINA, NORRWAY AND CANADA. END SUMMARY.

2. THE INTER-AMERICAN TELECOMMUNICATION CONFERENCE (CITEL) SYMPOSIUM WAS HELD FROM JULY 17-21 IN UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 02 RIO DE 03296 242000Z

RIO DE JANEIRO AT THE SHERATON HOTEL. PURPOSE OF THE SYMPOSIUM WAS TO DISCUSS ISSUES OF IMPORTANCE TO THE WORLD ADMINISTRATIVE RADIO CONFERENCE (WARC-79), TO BE HELD IN SEPTEMBER 1979 IN GENEVA. BRAZILIAN MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS, EUCLIDES QUANDT DE OLIVEIRA, OPENED THE SYMPOSIUM WITH A BRIEF ADDRESS, WHICH WAS FOLLOWED BY A FEW COMMENTS FROM THE SYMPOSIUM CHAIRMAN, ROMULO VILLAR FURTADO, SECRETARY GENERAL OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS. FURTADO WAS UNABLE TO PRESIDE OVER THE ENTIRE SYMPOSIUM. MISSING THE WEDNESDAY AND THURSDAY

SESSIONS, AND APPOINTED RICARDO SAIDMAN OF ARGENTINA ACTING CHAIRMAN DURING THIS PERIOD. THE APPOINTMENT OF SAIDMAN WAS APPROPRIATE, SINCE HE IS CHAIRMAN OF THE CITEL/TECHNICAL COMMITTEE III MEETING TO BE HELD NEXT WEEK. BOTH FURTADO AND SAIDMAN CONDUCTED THE SYMPOSIUM IN A SUCCESSFUL MANNER, DEMONSTRATING CONTROL OVER THE SESSIONS AND FAIRNESS TO ALL PARTICIPANTS.

2. THERE WERE REPRESENTATIVES FROM 23 WESTERN HEMISPHERE COUNTRIES IN ATTENDANCE. ADDITIONALLY, ONE REPRESENTATIVE EACH FROM JAPAN AND NORWAY WAS PRESENT. THE ITU/IFRB SENT TWO INDIVIDUALS (PERRIN AND BROOKS) AND THE FOLLOWING ORGANIZATIONS SENT OBSERVERS: : ITU/UNDP REGIONAL EXPORT (FROM BRAZIL); ASETA - ASOCIACION DE EMPRESAS DE TELECOMMUNICACIONES ANDINAS; IMCO - INTER-GOVERNMENTAL MARITIME CONSULTATIVE ORGANIZATIONS; AND SITA - SOCIETE INTERNATIONALE DE TELECOMMUNICATIONS AERONAUTIQUES. NUMBER OF PRESENTATIONS WERE BROKEN DOWN AS FOLLOWS; U.S. - 8, CANADA - 8, ITU/IFRB - 4, AND NORWAY - 1.

4. WHILE ATTENDANCE AT ALL SESSIONS WAS EXCELLENT, ONLY THE FOLLOWING COUNTRIES ACTIVELY PARTICIPATED IN OPEN DISCUSSIONS - U.S., CANADA, BRAZIL, ARGENTINA, UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 03 RIO DE 03296 242000Z

MEXICO AND TO A MUCH LESSER EXTENT NICARAGUA. ALTHOUGH OTHER REPRESENTATIVES OCCASIONALLY RAISED QUESTIONS, IT WAS CLEAR THAT THE ABOVE MENTIONED COUNTRIES HAD FORMULATED THEIR THOUGHTS IN ADVANCE AND WERE PREPARED TO LEAD THE SYMPOSIUM IN SUBSTANTIVE DISCUSSION OF ISSUES.

5. SYMPOSIUM WAS ALMOST COMPLETELY FREE OF POLEMICS, WHEN POINTS WERE RAISED CONCERNING DEVELOPING COUNTRIES, THEY WERE MENTIONED WITHIN THE FRAMEWORK OF ACTUAL TELECOMMUNICATION INFRASTRUCTURES AND PROBLEMS ASSOCIATED THEREIN. IT WAS APPROXIMATELY NOTED THAT DEVELOPING COUNTRIES HAD DIFFERENT NEEDS AND PROBLEMS THAN DEVELOPED COUNTRIES IN THIS FIELD, AND THEREFORE SOME PROPOSALS MIGHT BE TECHNICALLY DIFFICULT TO INCORPORATE. TYPICAL PROBLEMS OF HF FIXED VERSUS OTHER SERVICES REAPPEARED SEVERAL TIMES, AS DID NEED OF DEVELOPING COUNTRIES FOR IFRB INFORMATIONAL ASSISTANCE: BRAZIL, ARGENTINA AND MEXICO ALL SUGGESTED THAT THE IFRB HELP LDCS BY PROVIDING PREPARATION GUIDELINES FOR WARC-79 AND SET FORTH A LIST OF PROBLEM AREAS WITHIN THE RADIO REGULATIONS. IT WAS HOPED THAT THIS LATTER POINT WOULD HELP LDCS AVOID THE PITFALLS OF PREVIOUS CONFERENCES BY GIVING LDCS COMMON PARAMETERS FROM WHICH TO WORK AND INSURING THAT ALL COUNTRIES HAD SIMILAR UNDERSTANDING OF THE SIGNIFICANT AND/OR COMPLICATED PROBLEMS.

6. ON NEXT TO LAST DAY OF SYMPOSIUM, GLENN ROBINSON OF

U.S., COMMENDED THE REPRESENTATIVES OF ALL COUNTRIES FOR THEIR EFFORTS DIRECTED TOWARD KEEPING THE SYMPOSIUM FREE FROM POLITICAL RHETORIC. WHILE ACKNOWLEDGING THAT CERTAIN POLITICAL ASPECTS ARE ASSOCIATED WITH WARC-79, MENTIONING SUCH MATTERS AS EQUITABLE DISTRIBUTION OF RADIO FREQUENCIES, FROM FLOW OF INFORMATION, AND ACCESS TO TELECOMMUNICATIONS TECHNOLOGY, NEVERTHELESS, HE SET

DEXTER
UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 04 RIO DE 03296 242000Z

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 01 RIO DE 03296 02 OF 02 250712Z
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FORTH THAT WARC-79 IS ESSENTIALLY A TECHNICAL CONFERENCE AND DELEGATES SHOULD TREAT IT AS SUCH. MR. ROBINSON'S COMMENTS WERE ENDORSED BY THE SPOKESMAN FROM BRAZIL AND THE SYMPOSIUM ACTING CHAIRMAN. THE COLOMBIAN REPRESENTATIVE, HOWEVER, NOTED THAT THE SYMPOSIUM WAS DEALING WITH, QUOTE, A RESTRICTION OF RESOURCES, END QUOTE. HE SAID THAT THIS MATTER SHOULD BE ANALYZED FROM TWO PERSPECTIVES - TECHNICAL AND ECONOMIC. HE NOTED THAT WARC-79 CONCERNED ITSELF WITH ACCESS TO A LIMITED COMMUNITY, THE RADIO SPECTRUM. THEN HE MADE REFERENCE TO THE BOGOTA DECLARATION AND THE COLOMBIAN PRINCIPLES OF SOVEREIGNTY OVER THEIR PORTION OF THE GEOSTATIONARY ORBIT. FURTHERMORE, HE REMINDED THE CONFERENCE THAT,

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 02 RIO DE 03296 02 OF 02 250712Z

QUOTE, SITUATION SHOULD BE GIVEN TO THE GAPS EXISTENT
OETWEEN POSITIONS OF VARIOUS COUNTRIES REGARDING THIS
MATTER, END QUOTE. THE COLOMBIAN REPRESENTATIVE,
ORLANDO GALLO SUAREZ (MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATONS), MADE
NO FURTHER OFFICIAL MENTION OF THIS POINT, AND NO OTHER
COUNTRIES COMMENTED UPON IT. THE MEETING ADJOURNED AS
SCHEUDLED, AFTER HIS STATEMENT. DURING A COFFEE BREAK
THE COLOMBIAN REPRESENTATIVE INDICATED TO U.S. PARTICI-
PANTS THAT HE WAS OBLIGATED TO MAKE SUCH A STATEMENT,
ALTHOUGH IT IS UNCLEAR WHETHER HIS STATEMENT WOULD HAVE
BEEN MADE HAD NOT WE MADE REFERENCE TO KEEPING THE
SYMPOSIM FREE FROM POLITICS.

7. THE U.S. PARTICIPANTS JOINED IN SEVERAL INFORMAL
SIDE DISCUSSION S WITH REPRESENTATIVES OF CANADA,
ARGENTINA, BRAZIL, NORWAY, MEXICO, AND VENEZUELA.
SINCE THE VENEZUELANS ARE STILL IN THE EARLY STAGES OF
FORMULATING THEIR POSITIONS FOR WARC-79, DISCUSSIONS
CENTERED ON ONLY GENERAL SUBJECTS. ARGENTINA INDICATED,
HOWEVER, THAT THEY HAVE ALREADY FORMULATED DRAFT PREPO-
SALS, AND AT NEXT WEEK'S TECHNICAL COMMITTEE III MEETING
WILL DISTRIBUTE A DODUCMENT WHICH COMPARES THEIR
PROPOSALS WITH THE FCC'S NOTICE OF INQUIRY AND
CANADA'S SECOND DRAFT PROPOSALS. OTHER DISCUSSIONS ALSO
TENDED TOWARD GENERAL SUBJECTS.

8. IN CONCLUSION, THE SYMPOSIUM WAS SUCCESSFUL FROM
SEVERAL PERSPECTIVES. FIRST, IT ALLOWED THE U.S. TO
PRESENT THE CONCEPTS FOR WARC-79 IN A MANNER WHICH GAVE
ALL PARTICIPANTS THE OPPORTUNITY TO COMMENT. SECOND,
IT IDENTIFIED TO THE U.S. THE HEMISPHERIC PLAYERS WHO
HAVE ALREADY MADE EFFORTS IN RELATION TO WARC-79 AND
WHO WILL LIKELY CONTINUE TO UNDERTAKE SIGNIFICANT
UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 03 RIO DE 03296 02 OF 02 250712Z

ACTIVITIES. THIRD, IT ALLOWED THOSE COUNTRIES WHO HAVE
NOT YET MMVMIRGANIZED FOR WARC-79 THE OPPORTUNITY TO
ACQUAINT THEMSELVES WITH THE ISSUES AND GRASP SOME OF
THE TECHNICAL AND PROCEDURAL PROBLEMS THAT MUST BE
DEALT WITH AT THE CONFERENCE.

DEXTER

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